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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/612,616

07/02/2003

Nels E. Ursich

767 P 020A

4029

33621

7590

06/14/2004

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/612,616		URSICH, NELS E.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Alexander D Gilman		2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10-16, 24 and 28-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10-16, 24, 28-36 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 24, 28, 29-32, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ursich (US 5,921,798).

With regard to claim 24, 28, 29, Ursich (US 5,921,798) discloses an electrical locking receptacle (Fig. 7) comprising a housing having openings (66) for receiving the inserted prongs with holes of at least one electrical male plug,

locking means (2) operatively mounted in said housing for alternatively locking and releasing a male plug received in said housing,

a manually operated actuator member (40) mounted for movement in opposite first and second directions for locking and releasing the male plug,

said actuator member having an externally accessible actuator element (42) for causing said movement, said locking means including a locking element –ball (54),

said actuator member (Fig. 3, 4), resiliently biased (with a spring 26a), having a face formed with an open slot disposed adjacent an inserted prong for receiving said locking element, said slot having first and second sections, said first section having a shallower depth relative to said face than said second section (46), said locking element being positionable in said first section upon movement of said actuator member in said first direction for urging the locking element into the punched hole of one of the prongs of the male plug, said locking element being positionable in said second section upon movement of said actuator member in said second direction.

With regard to claim 30, Ursich discloses that said first and second sections are interconnected by ramp means (the oblique portion).

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With regard to claim 31, Ursich discloses that said actuator member includes a pair of opposite faces, each of said opposite faces having said open slots, each of said open slots receiving a locking element, said locking elements being urged into the holes of the prongs for locking.

With regard to claim 32, Ursich discloses that said actuator is moveable between the two prongs of a male plug.

With regard to claim 35, Ursich discloses that said is positioned adjacent said openings (72).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson et al in view of Brothers.

Simpson et al (US 6,049,143) discloses an electrical receptacle comprising:

a housing having openings (328);

a terminal means including a plurality of electrical contact elements (326),

wherein the electrical contact with a male plug is established, when a respective prong (302) is fully inserted into said housing (Fig. 16), and prevented if the prong is only partially inserted into the housing, said plurality of openings include at least one pair of spaced openings for receiving the spaced prongs of a respective male plug,

Simpson et al do not disclose that the plurality of electrical contacts each include a pair of spaced conductive elements for contacting a respective prong and said spaced conductive elements being a pair of generally U-shaped contact slots for receiving a respective prong of a male plug when fully inserted in said openings said pair of U-shaped contact slot being integrally formed on a terminal member.

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Brothers (US 5,320,545) discloses a pair of generally U-shaped contact slots (formed by 24) for receiving a respective prong of a male plug when fully inserted in said openings said pair of U-shaped contact slot being integrally formed on a terminal member (32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Simpson with U-configured conductive elements, as taught by Brothers, to improve contact between the prong and the receptacle contact.

With regard to claim 36, Simpson et al when modified by Brothers disclose (Brothers) that terminal includes a base connecting said pair of U-shaped contacts being bent at generally ninety degree angles to said base to receive a respective prong (Fig. 5).

With regard to claim 38, Simpson et al when modified by Brothers disclose (Brothers) that said terminal includes a bent up connector ((the strip receiving 33) for connection to an electrical lead.

2. Claims 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson et al in view of Brothers as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ursich (US 5,413,498).

Simpson et al disclose all of the limitations except for locking means including locking element, actuator with an open slot and external portion.

Ursich (US 5,413,498) discloses (Fig. 2) locking means including locking element (40), actuator (28, 30) with an open slot (39, 36) and external portion (34), said actuator movable along an axis generally parallel to the prong Fig. 7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the Simpson with locking means, as taught by Ursich, to self-locking the female receptacle.

3. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ursich (US 5,921,798) in view of Farnworth et al .

With regard to claim 33, Ursich (US 5,921,798) does not disclose the oval cross-section of the actuator. Farnworth et al (US 4,179,175) disclose an actuator element (22) oval in shape (col. 3, lines 4-6).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to configure Ursich's actuator member with oval cross-section as taught by Farnworth et al, for aesthetical appearance

With regard to claim 34, Ursich (US 5,921,798) when modified by Farnworth et al disclose (Farnworth et al) that said housing has openings for receiving the respective prongs of a pair of electrical male plugs, said housing including a pair of said actuator members mounted for movement adjacent the prongs of a respective male plug.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 37 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including that the portion of each of said U-shaped contact slots include a bent over portion to increase strength.

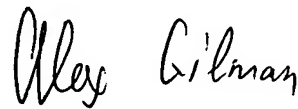
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

06/09/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Gilman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**